

## CHAPTER XVI.

### REFORMATION AND REVOLUTION IN SCOTLAND — QUEEN MARY AND JOHN KNOX.

THE arrival of Queen Mary from France in August 1561 did not at first materially change the situation. Her subjects were prepared to give her a hearty welcome, and she, on her side, made up her mind to accept the *status quo* in the mean time. She had eschewed the request of Huntly and other northern Catholic magnates to land at Aberdeen, and put herself at the head of the 20,000 men whom, they assured her, they could bring into the field, on behalf of a Catholic reaction. She preferred the counsel of Lord James, who had gone to France to interview her, to the extent at least of not attempting to upset the religious settlement of August 1560. She adopted a temporising policy, though she had hitherto strenuously refused the demand of Elizabeth as well as the Scottish Parliament to ratify the Edinburgh treaty. Her refusal to homologate the Acts of the Scottish Parliament was natural. Her attachment to her own creed barred the way, and the Convention had not scrupulously observed the terms of the Edinburgh agreement on one point, and had thus given her a fair pretext for evasion and procrastination. She would, however, have consulted her real interests by capitulating to the reformers, for it was a delusive notion that Scotland would return to its allegiance to the old Church, or ultimately submit to be governed by a papist ruler. Moreover, she complicated a sufficiently embarrassing situation by refusing to ratify that part of the treaty renouncing Elizabeth's title. She hinted to "her sister" that she had no right to interfere

between her and her subjects, and that in any  
case the death of  
her husband had rendered a revision of the treaty  
necessary.

Moreover, if she renounced her title to the  
English throne, she  
had a right to receive in return the recognition  
of her claim

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